on household goods made of stainless steel, aluminium, cutlery and glass-tableware. Subject to certain conditions, plastic products are exempt from excise duty upto Rs. 50 lakhs in a financial year, if produced by SSI Units.

(b) Plastic wares are consumed by a wider cross-section of the society and this is not confined to a particular section.

(c) Representations have been received from the certain associations seeking, *inter alia,* to restore the pre-budget exemption scheme to articles of plastic.

The rate of excise duty on plastic materials was reduced from 24% to 16% in the Budget for 2000-2001. The rate of excise duty on articles of plastics was also reduced from 24% to 16%. At present there is no proposal to modify the structure of duty on household articles of plastics.

Amendment to the Banking Secrecy Act

4664. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the Banking Secrecy Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) There is no proposal to amend the provisions in various banking laws, relating to confidentiality in respect of bank accounts.

(b) Does not arise.

Loans disbursed in Meghalaya

4665. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the loans disbursed by all the banks for agriculture purposes to the farmers, small-scale industries and artisans in Meghalaya during each of the last three years and till-date, bank-wise and year-wise?